



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES October 2013

Date	Description	# of Partic.	Comments
October 1	Published story, <i>Little Lessons in Life</i> , in Graham County School Newsletter.		This story is connected to the wonderful work of our library grantee. Thanks for publishing, Donna.
October 4	Attended the Peacock's monthly in-service in Phoenix.		We continued work on benchmarks and had opportunity to practice success stories in front of the group to support our basic power point presentation. Valuable feedback!
October 9	<i>Eastern AZ Courier</i> published an article, advertising the upcoming Early Childhood, Every Day trainings.		I did not request this piece of earned media. The editor picked up a copy of our flyer and turned it into an article. Thanks, David Bell, for your continued support!
October 17	Attended the Graham County Networking Team meeting.	16	There were a number of new members in attendance. I did a brief presentation about supporting the early childhood movement and distributed flyers for the Early Childhood, Every Day trainings.
October 18	Published a story, <i>For the Love of Books</i> , about a four year old who participates in the library's early literacy activities.		The content of this story is absolutely charming. While living in Tucson, Cairn ripped her library books in order to keep them. Now that she receives free books in Safford, she no longer has to resort to this behavior.
October 21	Attended the G/G FTF Regional Partnership Council meeting.		Reviewed August and September activities, distributed 4 stories, and distributed/discussed core messages from Early Childhood, Every Day. The RPS also adopted the Outreach Plan for FY14.
October 22	Attended the Greenlee County Networking Team meeting.	10	I did a brief presentation about supporting the early childhood movement and distributed flyers for the Early Childhood, Every Day trainings.
October 24	Conducted Early Childhood, Every Day training in Safford.	5	This training was very well received by attendees. Early Childhood, Every Day is a good vehicle for supporting the early childhood movement.
October 30	Conducted Early Childhood, Every Day training in Clifton.	5	This session had an interesting mix of school administrator, special ed teacher and 3 teacher aides; representing 4 programs. Very positive experience! And, good networking.
October 31	Published article for the FTF October Newsletter		My Mr. Mom story was published. Graham/Greenlee received a little notoriety statewide.
Total		36	

Cumulative Report (July through October, 2013):

Earned Media: 4 newspaper articles (Quality First and 2 from Debbie Heaton referencing FTF; Early Childhood Every Day).

8 Newsletter Articles (oral health, literacy, dehydration, food security, Quality First, obesity, *Little Lessons in Life* story, *Mr. Mom* story).

3 Stories (Safford Library: *Little Lessons of Life*, *Mr. Mom*, *For the Love of Books*)

14 presentations/events to 124 people.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette LeBlanc

Community Outreach Consultant

For RPC: I will be hosting an Early Childhood, Every Day training on Wednesday, November 20th at Child and Family Resources from 4:00 – 6:00. Feel free to come as an attendee. Or, you are also welcome to come as my partner in the presentation.



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For the Love of Books

Cairn is as bright and sweet as any four-year old can possibly be. She loves books, especially those about sea mammals, because she plans to be a marine biologist. Visiting the library is a favorite pastime. But, there is a darker side to this little preschooler: one that begins with the Tucson library.

Upon returning books on more than one occasion, Cairn reported her book was ripped. Her mom lectured her on being a responsible library patron. She further required Cairn to pay for the damaged book from her allowance. Cairn accepted this, saying "It's ok. I like this book." It was added to the family library. When the Stratton family moved to Safford, they immediately connected with the public library and found their way to a monthly parent/child workshop funded through First Things First. These workshops teach early literacy strategies to parents and caregivers as they are supported in their role as their child's first teachers. The three siblings enjoyed the *Fun with Letters* program and were each given a free book at the end of the session. Once they settled into the car on the way home, Cairn looked at her sister and said, "We don't have to rip books anymore because we get them free here."

On reflection, mom reports that Cairn's books were never torn on *important* pages. "It may have been the blank page at the end or a redundant title page; never a page with important text or illustrations. I should have known what she was up to. I guess the move to Safford, our involvement in the early literacy story times and participation in Imagination Library have saved Cairn from a life of crime. How upset can you get with a preschooler who loves books that much?!"

By funding the Safford Public Library's early literacy program and The Imagination Library, First Things First is making sure all children in Arizona are ready for school and set for life. To learn more about First Things First, please visit azftf.gov.

Submitted by Paulette LeBlanc, Outreach Coordinator